

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 USIE-00 IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2461

INFO USUN PRIORITY 1019

UNCLAS JIDDA 6475

FOR NEA AND S/CPR AMBASSADOR CATTO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, SA

SUBJECT: CHIEF OF ROYAL PROTOCOL ON PRIVATE VISIT IN THE US

1. THE EMBASSY HAS JUST BEEN INFORMED BY AN OFFICIAL AT THE OFFICE OF ROYAL PROTOCOL THAT THE CHIEF OF ROYAL PROTOCOL, SAYYID AHMED ABD AL WAHAB, IS ARRIVING IN THE UNITED STATES SEPTEMBER 21 WITH HIS FAMILY FOR A PRIVATE VISIT.

2. AMONG HIS OTHER FUNCTIONS, ABD AL WAHAB IS THE KEY SAUDI OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR ARRANGING ANY OFFICIAL VISITS THAT INVOLVE A CALL ON THE KING, CROWN PRINCE AND OTHER SENIOR PRINCES. HIS COOPERATION IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF ANY OFFICIAL VISIT. ABD AL WAHAB HAS BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO THE EMBASSY DURING THE LAST 16 MONTHS THAT HAVE SEEN ONE VISIT BY FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON, ONE BY VP ROCKEFELLER AND 10 BY SECRETARY KISSINGER. THOUGH HIS VISIT TO THE US IS PRIVATE, HE WOULD APPRECIATE SOME ATTENTION FROM THE USG.

3. ROYAL PROTOCOL IS UNABLE TO GIVE US ABD AL WAHAB'S FLIGHT NUMBER AND ARRIVAL TIME AT NEW YORK, BUT INFORMS US THAT HE WILL BE STAYING AT THE WALDORF ASTORIA SEPT 21 AND 22. WE ALSO KNOW THAT HE INTENDS TO VISIT

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DISNEYLAND SOMETIME THEREAFTER.

4. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT ABD AL WAHAB BE CONTACTED AT THE WALDORF ASTORIA, HIS PLANS BE ASCERTAINED, AND THAT ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE BE VOLUNTEERED. WE ARE CERTAIN FOR INSTANCE THAT FORMER AMBASSADOR TO SAUDI ARABIA NICHOLAS THATCHER, NOW SENIOR VP OF THE WELLS FARGO BANK IN SAN FRANCISCO WOULD BE GLAD TO HELP HIS OLD FRIEND ABD AL WAHAB.

5. AMBASSADOR CATTO, WHO HAS BEEN ACQUAINTED WITH ABD AL WAHAB FOR SOME TIME, WILL RECALL THAT HE WAS PARTICULARLY OBLIGING IN MEETING THE MYRIAD DEMANDS OCCASIONED BY THE VISIT OF FORMER PRES NIXON.
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